



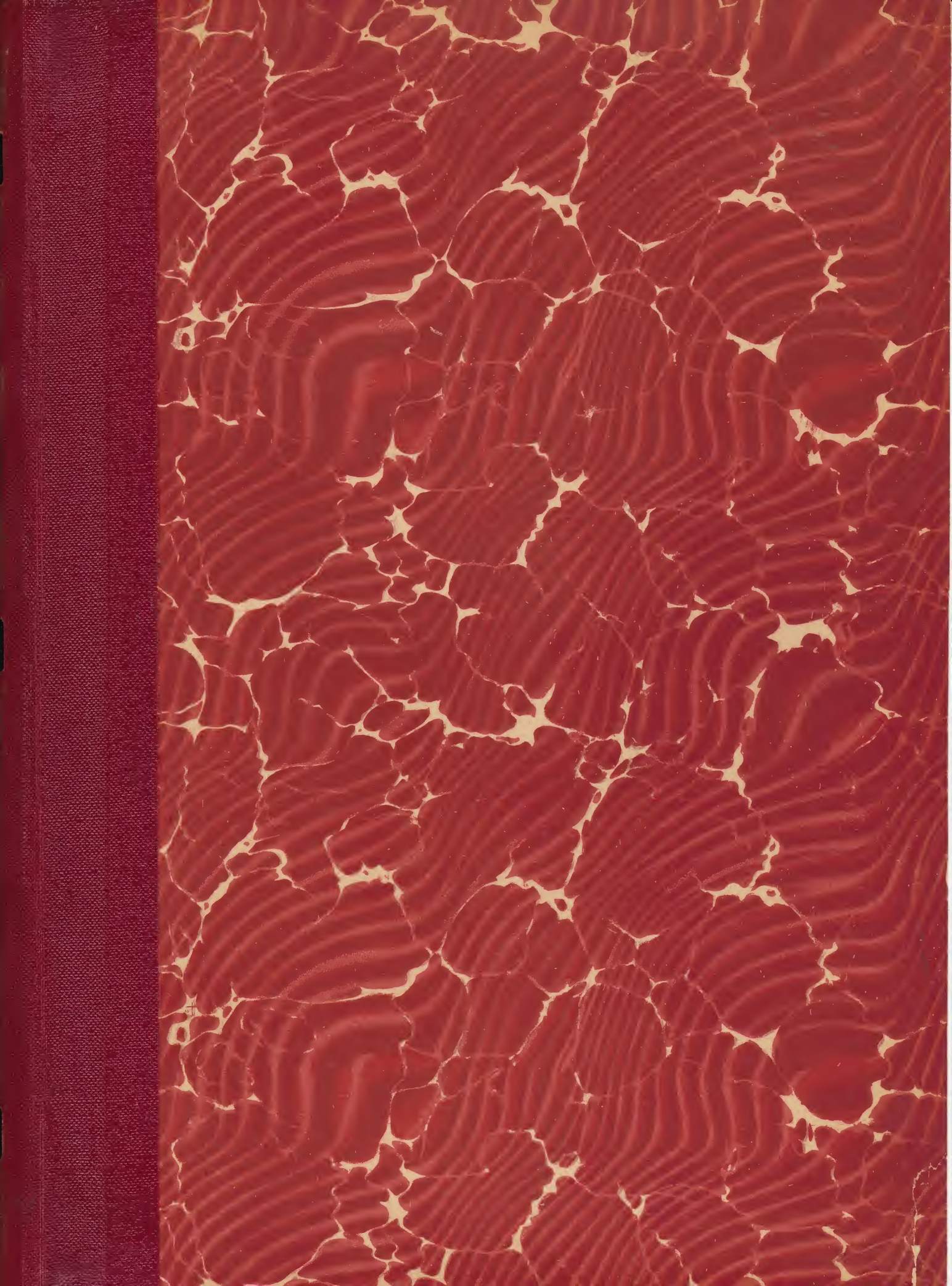


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Carlos J. Casta







C A R L O S   J .   C A S T A

1 9 1 7   -   1 9 4 6

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Corporal Carlos J. Casta died at Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Saturday, May 11, 1946, following an operation to relieve a disability received while he was serving in the United States Army.

Birth and Education

Carlos was born in Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico, October 20, 1917, the son of Juan and Maria Casta. He had an active life as a youth. He was taken to Italy as an infant and was raised amid ecclesiastical surroundings, studying for the priesthood. He attended school in both Italy and Spain.

At the age of seventeen Carlos changed his mind and decided to travel, wanderlust fashion. He toured Europe before coming to the United States in 1934. Here he served for a time in a Civilian Conservation Camp to learn the American language. Later he obtained a position as Spanish interpreter on J. P. Morgan's yacht. In this capacity he made four trips around the world.

WILSON J. 2107

1917 - 1918

-2-

Corporal Wilson, 2107, was at the  
Hospital, Kansas, Kansas, February, May 11,  
1918, following an operation to relieve a chronic  
condition which he was suffering in the United States  
Army.

Birth and Education

Wilson was born in Kansas, Kansas, Kansas, Kansas,  
October 20, 1917, the son of John and Mary Wilson.  
He had an Indian wife in a Indian. He was born

in 1917 as an Indian and was raised with  
educational advantages, studying for the  
past several years in the Indian School in  
Maine.

At the age of seventeen Wilson changed his  
name and became known as Wilson, following  
the custom of the Indian people in the United States  
in 1918. There he served for a time in a division.  
Commissioned Second Lieutenant and American Language.  
Later he received a position as Spanish interpreter  
in J. E. Hagan's office. In this position he was  
found to be of great value.



### Military Experience

Carlos J. Casta enlisted in the United States army in 1940 and served until he was honorably discharged in 1945. He saw duty with the field artillery and military police and finally with the army intelligence. He served in the South Pacific theatre and was attached for a time to General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters where his knowledge of six foreign languages, including Chinese and Japanese, was put to good use. Soon after his discharge from the army he came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in March, 1945, became a resident and a popular student at Kalamazoo College.

### Marriage

On Christmas day, 1943, he was married to Miss Frances Eleanor McKee, who was born in Decatur, Michigan, January 9, 1921, daughter of Ward and Jessie East McKee, of American stock. They became the parents of Maria Frances [REDACTED]. They made their home in Kalamazoo at 912 West North street.

In March, 1945, Mr. Casta was employed by the Upjohn company and remained until October, 1945, when he entered Kalamazoo College where he majored in Spanish and economics.

His parents reside at this time, 1946, in





Puerto Rico. A brother, Captain Jeronimo Casta, was a pilot in the air corps and was killed on Bataan.

#### Personal Characteristics

Carlos J. Casta was of medium height and had black curly hair and medium brown eyes. He had a happy disposition and was always smiling.

He was a natural born leader and for a time was master of ceremonies at the service club at Fort Custer. He was interested in people and was well liked.

He mastered many languages and readily picked up the English. He was an active worker in veterans circles. He had been a hospital patient for several weeks when the State of Michigan Student Veterans Association held a conference in Kalamazoo and he arose from his sick bed to attend it and was named president of the group. He was also a member of the Galesburg post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Carlos had a rich and interesting life, rather more than most men. He saw much of the world and accomplished much, bequeathing a rich heritage of memories to those he left behind.

His body was buried in Lakeside cemetery, Decatur, Michigan, the Reverend Leroy Cabbage,





pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Decatur,  
officiating.

Dr. E. B. Hinckley, Dean of Kalamazoo College,  
wrote:

"Dear Mrs. Casta,

"I am sending you a copy of the few words  
I said about Carlos in Chapel Tuesday morning.  
We shall miss him more than words can express.  
However, we can find comfort in the conviction  
that his suffering and disability are ended,  
and that he will be near to us even in more  
helpful ways now, and forevermore."

Chapel May 14, 1946

"I know that all of you feel as I do that in  
the death of Carlos Casta the whole College Family  
has lost a fine, inspiring friend and companion. I  
am certain that to all who knew him, whether casually  
or intimately, he stood for that vigorous confidence,  
that infectious enthusiasm, that vital determination  
that shone round about him and illuminated his every  
word and gesture. I remember very well the first  
time I talked with him about entering college - when  
he told me the amazing story of his life, of the  
early years in Italy, of his decision not to enter  
the priesthood, of his many fascinating experiences  
as a professional interpreter, with employers as  
various as J. P. Morgan and the Supreme Commander of  
the Allied Forces in the Pacific, culminating in his  
coming to Kalamazoo where he established his home  
and entered our Fellowship in Learning. I know that  
you will be glad as I was to learn that the last  
months of his life as a student here and as the  
father of a family were the happiest months he had  
spent in several years. Let us stand for a moment,  
in silent tribute to a very gallant friend.

"Oh God, who lookest on the hearts of men, and  
in Thy Divine Providence, bringest good out of what  
seems to our limited sight to be but evil, grant  
that to each of us may come from our knowledge of  
this friend whom Thou hast taken to Thyself a share  
of his courage and his readiness to labor for the  
things in which he believed. And when our turn shall  
come may we look forward with confidence to sharing  
that noble fellowship which he has joined. Amen."





Among the comforting messages received by  
Mrs. Casta was a copy of the following:

"DEDICATION

"They are not gone who pass  
Beyond the clasp of hand  
And from the strong embrace.  
They are but come so close  
We need not grope with hands,  
Nor look to see, nor try  
To catch the sound of feet.  
They have put off their shoes  
Softly to walk by day  
Within our thoughts to tread  
At night our dream-led paths of sleep."

"They are not lost who find  
The sunset gate, the goal  
Of all their faithful years.  
Nor lost are those who reach  
The summit of their climb,  
The peak above the clouds  
And storms. They are not lost  
Who find the light of sun  
And stars and God."

Anonymous

Among the anastomosing passages revealed by

the fossils was a mass of the following:

### DESCRIPTION

They are not quite new plants

because the stems are small

and from the stems arise

They are not quite as slender

as they are not quite as slender

and from the stems arise

the stems are small and slender

They are not quite as slender

as they are not quite as slender

Within the stems are small

as they are not quite as slender

They are not quite as slender

the stems are small and slender

Of all their leaves they

Not less are they not less

the stems are small and slender

the stems are small and slender

and stems. They are not less

and from the stems arise

and stems and stems

and stems









N O R A   M U N G E R   C A T E

1 8 6 5   -   1 9 4 3

-o-

Nora Munger was born December 3, 1865, in Lawton, Michigan, daughter of Samuel and Lovina Chase Munger. They were also the parents of Ruth Zoe, born June 19, 1881. Both girls attended the schools near their home and the Paw Paw High School, after which Nora taught school for a time.

July 21, 1897, Nora was married to George W. Cate by the Reverend Fred W. Corbett, a Methodist minister.

October 17, 1899, Ruth Zoe Munger was married to Jesse Labadie and they became the parents of:

George, born August 23, 1900, married Doris Bless, who was born June 9, 1905, and they became the parents of Donald, May 17, 1925, and of Roberta, August 21, 1927, and reside in Decatur, Michigan;

Dorothy, born August 15, 1902, married Ben Zwalua, who was born December 24, 1893, and they became the parents of Donna, born [redacted], and James, born July 27, 1937, and reside in the former Cate home at 2201 West Main street in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Wesley, born May 10, 1905, married May Stamp, who was born August 14, 1911, and they became the parents of Richard, November 2, 1931, and reside in Decatur, Mich.;

Jason, born March 23, 1908, married Lovina Ball,





who was born September 24, 1918, and they became the parents of Ruth, born [redacted], and Robert, born [redacted], and reside in Dowling, Michigan;

Leon, born July 3, 1910, married Wanda Williams on who was born August 19, 1911, and they became the parents of Douglas, born October 21, 1934, Joyce, born October 17, 1936, died July 29, 1937, Sally, born November 17, 1938, Jerry, born August 12, 1940, Sharon, born [redacted];

Milton, who died in infancy;

Hubert, born August 6, 1914, married Leona Jirock, who was born July 24, 1912, and they became the parents of Neil, [redacted], and reside in Chicago, Illinois;

Henry, born August 27, 1917, is now, 1943, in England attached to the Signal Corps of the United States Army;

Aileen, born February 2, 1922, resides in Decatur, Michigan;

Lucille, born February 2, 1922.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. George Cate lived for a time in Decatur, Michigan, and then moved to Paw Paw, Michigan, where they resided for a number of years.

In 1920, they moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and built their home at 2201 West Main street, where Mr. Cate died April 11, 1932, and where Mrs. Cate passed away April 17, 1943.

Funeral services for Mrs. Cate were conducted





by the Reverend Abraham DeYoung, D. D., and burial was in the Paw Paw cemetery.

While living in Paw Paw, Mrs. Cate became vitally interested in the work of the Ladies of the Maccabees and thereafter was closely identified with that organization. She believed ardently in insurance and the benevolent features of the Maccabees and recruited new members for the lodge. She held its important offices locally, and was elected Great Lieutenant Commander for the Great Camp of Michigan. For many years she travelled as a paid worker for this fraternal and social organization and was frequently called upon to speak in various cities.

Mrs. Cate was prepossessing in appearance and was a commanding figure as a presiding officer, where her knowledge of parliamentary procedure carried weight. She was tall, well built, with dark hair and <sup>blue</sup> eyes. She was popular, kindly disposed, interesting to meet, and a splendid organizer and speaker.

She was a member of the Women's Benefit Association and the First Reformed Church. Being raised in a Christian home, she was taught, by precept and example, the right principles of living, by which she directed her life. She was honorable and straightforward in all her dealings, a gracious Christian woman.









MYRTIE MAY CHAPMAN

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MYRTIE MAY CHAPMAN was born in Saranac, Michigan, January 24, 1872. Her father's name was Galen Smith. Her mother died when Myrtie was four years of age and her father passed away a few years later.

At the age of seven years Myrtie May came to Kalamazoo County to make her home with Mr. and Mrs. W. Brooks Huntley of Cooper. While there she attended the Delano School in Cooper township and later became a student in Kalamazoo College. After that she studied elocution in Chicago.

On June 21, 1893, she was united in marriage to Millard F. Chapman. Two sons were born to this marriage, Don H., and Laurence V. Don H. Chapman resides in Alamo township and Laurence V. Chapman at 415 Trimble avenue, Kalamazoo.

Mrs. Chapman was active in Christian work for many years and in 1912 founded the Gull Street Undenominational Church. She was especially interested in the religious welfare of young people and began and directed the annual camp meeting at Camp Bethel in Barry County.

Death came to Mrs. Chapman at 12:15 P. M. Saturday, March 21, 1936. This is written in 1936.





Mrs. Ralph Chapman





*Prof. W. R. Chapman*



Ralph Chapman

R A L P H   W .   C H A P M A N

By

Sheriff Charles W. Struble

Ralph W. Chapman, a life-long resident of this community, was born in Alamo Township, and came to Kalamazoo at the age of three years. When he became of school age he attended the Woodward Avenue School.

As a young man he was employed as bookkeeper for the Kalamazoo Ice Company, and at the age of twenty was appointed a deputy sheriff by Sheriff Glenn Shipman. After serving three years in this capacity, he entered the employ of the American Tobacco Company as a salesman.

In 1903 he was appointed to the Kalamazoo Police Department by Chief of Police George E. Boyles, and served as a detective for five years. He then conducted his own business until his appointment as undersheriff under Sheriff Ab Campbell. Mr. Chapman served four years as undersheriff and was then elected Sheriff of Kalamazoo County for two successive terms. He was then employed as general manager of the Sponcler Coal Company, Linton, Indiana for three years, and the following three years as salesman for the Kalamazoo Truck Company.





In the fall of 1923 Mr. Chapman and the writer entered into the partnership of Chapman and Struble, establishing an investigation bureau for industrial plants and engaging in general detective work. This enterprise was conducted in a highly successful manner, but was dissolved when Mr. Struble was elected Sheriff of Kalamazoo County and took office January 1, 1931. Mr. Chapman was appointed Commissioner of the Kalamazoo Police Department, taking office January 1, 1932, and is now serving in that position.

Mr. Chapman and the writer have traveled together almost continuously since the former's appointment as a detective in the Kalamazoo Police Department, at which time I was a patrolman. When he was elected Sheriff, I was advanced to the position of Chief of Police. As a result of our long association we are more as brothers than merely friendly business associates.

Ralph Chapman has always been active in civic progress, fraternal organizations, and any enterprise which has the advancement of the community as its goal. He is recognized throughout this section of the country as a criminal officer of outstanding ability. The Kalamazoo Police Department under his supervision ranks among the finest to be found any-



where. Mr. Chapman is now President of the South-western Michigan Law Enforcement Association, and First Vice-President of the Michigan Police Chiefs' Association. His outstanding ability already mentioned, his pleasing personality and genial manner endear him to his many friends. This is written in 1936.





M A D E L O N   B E R Y L   W Y N N   C H A P M A N

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M. Beryl Wynn was born in Berrien Springs, Michigan, March 21, 1882, the daughter of John N. and Casilda Wynn. She attended school in Buchanan, Michigan, and at the age of fifteen moved to Kalamazoo.

She and Mr. Chapman were married May 2, 1905, at 411 Douglas Avenue, which served as the Chapman residence thereafter. They became the parents of a son Richard, a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who was born February 16, 1906, is married and the father of Ralph Lewis and Richard Wynn and resides in Miami, Florida.

Mrs. Chapman was a charter member of the White Cross Guild of the Bronson Methodist Hospital and was active in organizing the sewing circle of the guild and in obtaining the guild quarters.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, in which both she and her husband were active.

She also was a member of the M. U. M. (Members Until Married) club, a social group organized when she was a young lady and which has held annual reunions since that time.





Mrs. Chapman's first interest was centered in her family and her home. She was a lover of music, and a pianist, and was a student of the arts and literature. She kept entirely abreast of the times in current world and national events, and was interested in civic, philanthropic and governmental activities. She was a student of period furniture, art and interior decorating, and her immaculate home reflected the refinement of her taste.

From marriage she was a constant helpmate and companion of her husband, working with him side-by-side in his long service in the field of law enforcement in Kalamazoo city and county. She aided him in his successful campaigns for sheriff in 1912 and 1914, and served as matron at the county jail during the four years her husband served as sheriff.

She was interested in travel and in more recent years had enjoyed many pleasant motoring trips to various parts of the United States. She invariably accompanied her husband on business, vacation and convention trips, and only a month before her passing was with him at the International Chiefs of Police convention at Buffalo, New York.

Death came to Mrs. Chapman Saturday afternoon, September 13, 1941, at Bronson Hospital, where she



had gone for a major operation. She was survived by her husband, her son Richard L. Chapman and his wife and two sons; a sister, Mrs. Frank Beerstecher, Nottawa; two brothers, John Wynn, Buchanan, and Howard Wynn, Kalamazoo; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral services were held in the First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, the Reverend Paul Silas Heath, D. D., officiating. Interment was in Riverside cemetery.











R O L A N D   M A T H E W S   C H E Y N E

1 9 2 2   -   1 9 4 4

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Roland Mathews Cheyne was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 17, 1922, son of Vaughn C. and Murtle Mathews Cheyne of mixed Celtic ancestry, the latter's forebears coming from Ireland. Both parents were born in Michigan and were married in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They immediately made their home on Dwight street in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn C. Cheyne also became the parents of:

Wayne, born April 11, 1916, resides with his parents;

Elaine Marceta, born [redacted], married James Henson, who is now, 1946, overseas with the army of occupation;

Lola Yetive, born August 26, 1928, resides with her parents; and

One child who died in early life.

Elaine is making her home with her parents while her husband is overseas.

Wishing to locate their home near schools, Mr. and Mrs. Cheyne moved to Locust street, near to Western Michigan College of Education and the State Training School.



Wayne attended the Training School from kindergarten through high school and then through college. He entered the Air Corps March 9, 1942, and served in a fighter squadron orderly room stationed in England two years and nine months. He was a Technical Sergeant.

Roland finished high school and was drafted into the armed services. He volunteered for duty as an aerial gunner and received training which qualified him for this and for engineering. He left Kalamazoo October 1, 1942, for Shepherd Field, Texas, and from there was sent to Laredo Field, Texas, and to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi, where he studied navigation and engineering. He went from there to Tucson, Arizona, and to Clovis, New Mexico. His special training was obtained at Langley Field, Hampton Roads, Virginia, and he was then sent to Mitchell Field, New York. He left for overseas in February 1944, with the rank of Sergeant, going by way of Trinidad, Brazil, Dakar and Casablanca. His outfit was based in England and while there he was made Staff Sergeant. He remained in England until he was killed September 9, 1944. He was always the lead bomber on the missions.

One of the crew of the B-24 Liberator bomber in which Roland met his death wrote to the parents:





"Your son Roland was riding in the nose turret when we were shot down...Your son was flying in the worst and most dangerous position when it was hit. The nose turret is practically the hardest position to get out of.

"When the plane was hit it was immediately a mass of flames and it then turned over on it's back and went into a spin. I stood up out of my seat as soon as we were hit and was pinned in. The next I knew I was falling through the air free of the plane, so I opened my parachute. The plane had exploded and blown me out...The chances are that there was no body left to be identified, for with the plane on fire and blowing up you know what can happen. How any of us got out alive I do not know."

This occurred while the crew was on a mission over Mainz, Germany. In April 1945, Mrs. Cheyne received the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded posthumously to her son in a presentation ceremony at Selfridge Field, Michigan. In May, 1944, his parents received an Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters and a written group citation signed by General Eisenhower. The Purple Heart was also sent to his mother.

#### Personal Characteristics

Roland was five feet eight inches tall, of a wiry, sturdy build and was aggressive. He held to his opinions and plans with tenacity of purpose, yet was of a warm, sunny, and kind disposition.

He enjoyed sports and excelled in tennis. He was a member of the State High tennis team and the "Varsity" team in basket ball.







He was interested in aviation from his youth and planned to make some branch of it his life work. He enjoyed swimming, skating, sailing, playing golf, dancing and ice-boating, which gave him many happy hours at Gull Lake.

Roland was a preparatory member of the First Methodist Church in Kalamazoo and sang when a boy in the children's choir. He sang in the Glee Club at State High School for one year.

He is remembered by many in Kalamazoo for his friendly, pleasant manner and his many activities. Most of all he is appreciated for the great service and sacrifice which he gave, when like a good soldier he counted not his life dear unto him, but went out to be spent to the uttermost in the service of his country. He was killed on his thirtieth mission, which was to have been his last - and it was, but not as he had hoped.



24 p x 17











A L L I S O N   C H I S H O L M   D .   D .   S .

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H E L E N   F L E T C H E R   C H I S H O L M

1 8 8 7   -   1 9 4 2

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Helen May Fletcher was born in Solina, Ontario, July 9, 1887, daughter of John and Eva Hogarth Fletcher of Scotch and English descent. She had one sister, Muriel Vera Fletcher, who married Floyd Miller and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

When Helen was yet a child the family moved to Thamesford, Ontario, where her father studied medicine and she attended school for several years after which the family moved to Detroit, Michigan, and her father took work in the medical college and she attended the grade school.

After Dr. Fletcher completed his medical education the family came to Kalamazoo and Miss Helen attended the old Frank Street School; was graduated from Central High School in 1905 and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College in 1909.

December 25, 1909, Helen May Fletcher was married by Dr. John E. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, to Allison Chisholm, who was born on a farm four and one-half miles from



Thamesford, Ontario, October 25, 1878, son of John and Christian Kerr Chisholm, both of whom were born in Scotland.

Allison Chisholm resided on the farm home until he was seventeen years of age, when he went to Windsor, where he completed his work in the grades and was graduated from the high school in 1900 and then entered the Dental School of the Detroit College of Medicine from which he received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1903.

Dr. Chisholm began the practice of dentistry in New Baltimore, Michigan, but in 1905 he came to Kalamazoo and opened his office in the Brown building, now the Peck building. In 1914, he moved his office to the Hanselman building and in 1931 to the American National Bank building.

Dr. and Mrs. Chisholm began housekeeping at 527 South Park street, in a double house purchased by him and Dr. Fletcher in 1909. They resided there until 1920, when Dr. and Mrs. Chisholm acquired their beautiful home at 1616 Grand Avenue.

They became the parents of:

Gordon Fletcher, who was born May 21, 1913, received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Michigan in 1937, married Viola Shikoski and became the father of Gail, born





Helen Louise, who was born April 26, 1917, was graduated from Western Michigan College of Education, resides with her father and assists her father and brother who have offices together in the American National Bank building;

Dorothy Elizabeth, who was born February 29, 1924 and resides with her father;

Florence Virginia, who was born [redacted] and resides with her father at the time of this writing in 1942.

Dr. Allison Chisholm was a charter member of the Kiwanis club of Kalamazoo, from which he resigned in 1938; belongs to the Kalamazoo Dental Society; the Southwestern Michigan Dental Society, the Michigan State Dental Society and the American Dental Society.

He is a Deacon in the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo and takes a very active part in all its work. He is also a member of the board of the Little Symphony Society of Kalamazoo and active in many civic projects. He has developed a beautiful yard about his home and is fond of gardening. For recreation he enjoys fishing.

Mrs. Chisholm was a member of the Church of God in Grand Rapids and with her husband was active in the work of the First Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, participating in the activities of the societies of the church, especially in the Sunday school where for a great many years she taught the Philathea class.





She was also a member of the American Association of University Women and of the Kappa Pi Society of Kalamazoo College and was active in the Alumni Association of the College.

Death came to Mrs. Chisholm Monday, February 2, 1942. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Frank Siple, pastor of the Church of God of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Reverend T. T. Wylie, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo. Burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

Dr. T. T. Wylie wrote the following tribute to Mrs. Chisholm:

"Among the large group of friends who have influenced the First Baptist Church during the last two decades one would naturally name the late Mrs. Allison Chisholm. Her contribution was many fold. Through her regular attendance; her generous stewardship of time, energy and money; and her radiant Christian personality, she has greatly blessed our church life.

"The example of leading her well trained, consecrated children into the church fellowship has strengthened this as a family church and has at the same time provided the church with four leaders of the young people's program. Such leadership is not accidental, every minister knows full well, but is the product of parental example and training.

"Along with heavy responsibility for her family life, Mrs. Chisholm found time and energy, not only to do her usual tasks with the church women, such as working on committees and serving dinners, but she taught and ministered to a group of business women as well, Sunday after Sunday interpreting to them the wisdom of the



Bible and week after week she ministered to them individually and collectively in their religious and social needs.

"Her going from us in the flesh is deeply lamented, but her spiritual influence continues to strengthen and bless us."

Dr. Allison Chisholm died in Bronson Hospital Kalamazoo, Michigan, Monday afternoon, June 28, 1943, following a heart attack.

Funeral services were conducted from the First Baptist Church by the pastor, the Reverend T. Thomas Wylie, D. D., with burial in Mountain Home cemetery.









*Mrs Sarah Barbara Christley*



S A R A H   C O O P E R   C H R I S T L E Y

1 8 6 5   -

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I, Sarah Barbara Cooper, was born in Slippery Rock township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1865, the fourth child of a family of eight born to Milton and Maria Cooper. One sister, Mary Elizabeth, and two brothers, Joseph Lincoln and William Detmore, were older and three sisters, Clarissa Cornelia, Harriet Freeborn, Salena Caroline, and a brother, Francis Nathaniel, were younger.

Milton Cooper was born in Slippery Rock township, Butler county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1829, died in that same township December 10, 1876. His wife, Maria Matilda Hill, was born in Lewisburg, Union county, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1836, and died in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 3, 1929. My great grandfather and great grandmother Cooper were natives of Northern England, and she was of Scotch descent. My grandfather, Nathaniel Cooper, was born in England and came to New York with his parents while a baby. They settled in New York state for a short time and then came to Pennsylvania and were among the early settlers of Slippery



Rock township, where my grandfather lived on the same farm until he died at the age of eighty-four. They followed the Presbyterian doctrine very closely and grandfather was an elder in that church for years as they were elected for a life time.

My grandmother, Barbara Ann Musser Hill's great grandfather and great grandmother Musser were natives of a Dutch colony in the Netherlands or near there. He and his brother had a trading vessel and made voyages to the coast of Africa. His youngest son, Uriah, went with him on a great many of his voyages and at the age of twenty had mastered enough of the native language that he could teach them the Bible, and was one of the first of seven missionaries. They remained on the coast for six years and then returned home, but the older men were unable to make another voyage. Uriah and his cousin sailed again intending to explore a little farther along the coast, but they were never heard of after that and their family thought they were lost at sea.

The younger Musser men came to the United States and landed in Pennsylvania and lived and married there. My great grandfather and great grandmother were born in Pennsylvania. They were all devoted Methodists and some were exhorters as





they called them in that day. They all lived to be elderly people, my grandmother Hill being eighty-five years old when she died.

I was reared in the country and at an early age became interested in the general affairs of the farm. I loved the out door life and as soon as school closed in the spring I would help my brothers with the field work as our father was ill and we could not hire help. He had a large flock of sheep and I was very much interested in helping with them and caring for the little lambs. Corn planting time was my delight as the kernels were dropped by hand in hills and the boys followed with the hoe and covered them. At that time very little machinery was in use and when it did appear on the market the price was almost beyond the reach of the farmers.

I received my early education in a rural school and when I was sixteen I was asked by the parents of the district to teach the three months summer term which I did. This was called a subscription school and was a splendid recommendation for my future work.

In the fall I went to live with a cousin in Mercer, Pennsylvania, where I attended high school





for two years and passed the teacher's test and taught school the next year. The following year I attended Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, and then taught three more years in rural schools. I always loved children and I had a desire to be able to teach that I might be able to help them in a spiritual way of living. The rural girls had few opportunities to do the things that were on their hearts to do and the only vocations that were open to them were teaching, dressmaking, and house work.

After four years of teaching I made a lifetime choice and married a young farmer of splendid Christian parentage and whom I had known from childhood, William Leonidas Christley. We were married on the evening of December 29, 1886, at my home in Slippery Rock township, Butler county, Pennsylvania. The ceremony was read by Reverend J. C. Wright, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Slippery Rock.

In March, 1887, we went to western Indiana and lived on a rented farm for some time and then purchased 160 acres of land and built a home. We were seven miles from town and church with dirt roads that were almost impassable from November to April. Our only conveyance was a lumber wagon, so



we did not attend church many times during the year. There was a school house two miles from our home where services were held every four weeks during the summer and fall by the Methodist minister from the town of Ambia, but the attendance was so small that he became discouraged and gave it up. During those years, without the aid of the church and Christian fellowship that I had been used to in years before, I felt that I had almost lost the experience that I had loved.

In the spring of 1891, my sister Harriet came from Pennsylvania to stay with us for a time. She was very enthusiastic about the church and Sunday school work at home and she decided she could not live there without it. She and another young lady, Alice Irwin, who lived in the neighborhood, organized a Sunday school in the same school house and by the Christmas season had a large attendance. After the Holidays a revival was asked for and with the help of some of the newcomers in the community they were able to get a preacher for two weeks. It was during these meetings that a neighbor boy came in a sled and asked us to go with them to the meeting that night and we went along. There were fifteen people present but the message seemed directed to





me and a deep conviction came into my heart. I had been a member of the Presbyterian church back home for years, but I felt a greater need for salvation that night than I had ever had before and when he gave the invitation and sang, "Throw Out The Life Line," I knew that if I left the room that night without surrendering my all to Him I would be lost forever.

As I hesitated, Harriet took me by the hand and led me to the altar, but I did not feel satisfied with my experience, but promised I would go to the cottage prayer meeting the next day. The next day I was tempted to give up, but my sister took me to the meeting and I received help from it, but not the peace and joy I felt I must have if the burden was lifted from my heart. I put in a miserable night and the next day I felt something must break or I would give up and I went out in the summer kitchen alone and knelt down and started to pray asking God for something I did not have and then I looked up and said, Lord, just as I am without one plea, I come, I come. Something seemed to be lifting me to my feet and I arose for the burden had been lifted and I was happy in Christ Jesus. I have been in His work ever since that day.





The girls already had a vision of a church for the community and with their help we were able to convert my husband and several other men to the thought of circulating petitions for the money which we raised, and in the fall of 1893, the church was given over to the Methodist Annual Conference to be dedicated to God in the Locust Grove community. I was steward and Sunday school superintendent for several years and taught a large class of young men and women. Mr. Christley was instrumental in organizing a large choir and the church grew in numbers and is an active church today. It outgrew its capacity and was enlarged a few years ago and is an up-to-date church.

In 1899, we moved to Pennsylvania and I united with the Methodist Church in Slippery Rock and taught in the Sunday school for two years after which I was elected Sunday school superintendent and served a number of years until we moved to Constantine, Michigan, in 1907, where I united with the Methodist Church and taught a large class of girls in the Sunday school and organized them into the Standard Bearers Society and had them until they married. I served as superintendent of the Sunday school for twelve years; was leader of the Little



Light Bearers; president of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society - also was vice president; was a member of the official board; was an active member of the Ladies Aid Society; superintendent of the Temperance department of the Sunday school for two years and have been interested in all the activities of the church. Mr. Christley was a member of the choir.

I have also been a member of the Subordinate and the State Grange for a great many years and was lecturer for fifteen years and also served as chaplain. I am a Republican and a member of the St. Joseph county Republican Women's Club, and have served as vice president for a number of years.

I make flowers my hobby and am greatly interested in boys. For seven years I had two orphan boys in my home and they grew up to be Christian men and both are members of the Methodist Church. The older one, Lester Spade, is married and resides in Constantine where he is employed. Elton Spade graduated from the Constantine high school in 1939 and is learning the printing trade in Constantine.

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Redeemer and if we want to be saved we must come by the way of the cross. 1940





"My sister, Mrs. Christley, has always been interested in things educational and her gracious personality has been greatly appreciated by her family and friends. She is cheerful, kind and patient. During her husband's illness she cared for him with untiring devotion. Her loyalty to her church has been marked and her beautiful Christian spirit is a continual inspiration."

Mrs. Harriet Larch.

Written in 1940





Antonio Pete Cilluffo



A N T O N I O   P E T E   C I L U F F O

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Antonio Pete Ciluffo was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 22, 1924, the son of Jasper and Pauline Rizzuto Ciluffo, both of whom were born in Italy. Jasper was born in Sicily July 28, 1894, and Pauline was born September 8, 1904. Jasper came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, at the age of nineteen, and Pauline came with her parents when she was two years old. They were married in Chicago, Illinois, January 1, 1921, and became the parents of the following other children:

Josephine, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, , and resides now (1945) with her parents at 1211 King's Highway, in Kalamazoo;

Rose, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 9, 1925, and also resides with her parents;

Mary, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, , also resides with her parents;

Antonio Pete, named after his deceased brother, who died without ever seeing or knowing of the birth of his little brother, was born . Both were called by the pet name of Nēno.

Tony attended the Lincoln, Roosevelt and Central





High Schools in Kalamazoo and was graduated from the last named January 30, 1942.

While attending school Tony sold the Kalamazoo Gazette and other publications and after graduation from Central High School he was employed by Birmingham and Prosser for a time and also by the Sutherland Paper Company.

#### Military Experience

Antonio Pete Ciluffo was drafted into the United States Army March 1, 1943, and was assigned to the 133rd Infantry Regiment. He was inducted at Camp Grant, following which he spent some time at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and at Greenville, Pennsylvania. From the last named he was sent to Newport News, point of embarkation, in Virginia, and was shipped overseas July 14, 1943, and landed in North Africa the following July 21. His last letter home was dated September 16, 1943, from North Africa, until he wrote from Italy a letter which was received by his parents in Kalamazoo October 30, 1943.

In Italy, Tony, a First Class Private, was with the Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 133rd Infantry and served as an interpreter.

In June 1944, Pfc. Ciluffo, in a dispatch from Italy, was accorded membership in the "Anzio Wildcats," an outfit trouble-shooting for a line battalion of a





Fifth army crack infantry division in the Anzio sector. The division at the time was not identified but a more recent dispatch states it was the 34th.

Pfc. Ciluffo and his good friend Pvt. Allen R. Dolph, 1318 Egleston avenue, were drafted together, and took their basic training together, but became separated when shipping orders came, and were not reunited until in March 1944 when they met, by chance in Italy, when Pfc. Ciluffo found his friend among 2,000 American soldiers in town on week-end passes.

Tony's parent's were pleased to read in one of his letters that he had been granted an audience with Pope Pius and received the Pope's blessing. This was a great comfort to Tony's father and mother after the loss of their son. Neno had written, "This is something I'll never forget and will always be proud of." The Pope gave him two medals and two rosaries, both of which his mother fondly cherished.

Speaking the language made Italy an interesting place for Tony and after the Italians surrendered he made many warm friends.

#### Personal Characteristics

Antonio Pete Ciluffo was five feet eight inches tall and weighed about one hundred sixty pounds, had



brown hair and eyes. His expression was unusually engaging with a happy smile and a likable disposition. He was ruggedly built and looked the picture of health. He was friendly and many were glad he called them his friends.

Tony was a good singer and was much in demand to sing at weddings and social occasions. When but a small boy the fellows at the Kalamazoo Stationery plant asked him one noon to sing for them, which he did. The men then passed the hat and the lad eagerly brought home to his mother the six dollars which they contributed.

When in school Tony was a good student and was beloved by his teachers. He was one of the few boys chosen by Central High School to represent the school at the Boys State Convention in Lansing, Michigan, in 1941. He also sang in the Central High School choir. He liked all sports, swimming, fishing, baseball, football and basket ball. He was all round boy.

The following letters reveal the kind of young man Tony was:





Nov. 12, 1944  
Italy

Dear Chaplain,-

I owe Tony Ciluffo thirty dollars. Please send it to his people for me. He was a very good friend of mine. We miss him very much.

Please tell his family my sympathy is with them.

Sincerely

Pfc. Joe Michelsky

Hq. Co. 3rd Bn. 133 Inf.

A. P. O. 34 c/o N. Y. N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN  
133RD INFANTRY REGIMENT  
U. S. ARMY

24 November 1944

Mrs. Pauline Ciluffo  
1211 Kings Highway  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Ciluffo,-

I am enclosing a money order for \$30.00 (thirty dollars), and a letter from one of Tony's friends. The letter is self-explanatory.

All of us here miss Tony. He was such a fine happy soldier that everybody liked him. So many things that he did make us think of him quite often.

Last Sunday, as I was serving Communion to the soldiers at a Protestant Service, I recalled that the wine that I was using was bought for me by my good friend, Tony Ciluffo. It made the service doubly sacred because his spirit was with us even though he is no longer here.

I hope this finds you well and happy. All of us here wish you a very merry Christmas.

God bless you.

Nov. 27, 1944  
1944

Dear Dorothy:-  
I saw your letter about  
delivered. Please send it to the people in the  
He was a very good friend of mine. He was  
the very best.  
Please tell his family up  
the way is with you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dorothy

1000 1st St. N.W.

Washington, D.C.

WILLIAM OF THE  
LARGE BROTHERS  
D. C. 1944

11 November 1944

Mr. William  
1001 1st St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. William:-  
I am sending a letter to you  
and the family with a letter from me of  
myself. The letter is self-explanatory.  
All of us have with you. We are  
with a kind heart. I hope that every one of us  
to many friends that we had at school in the  
after.

Last night, as I was leaving  
Washington to the suburbs at a Washington  
I was with you. I was with you. I was with you.  
For me up to the point, I was with you. I was with you.  
I hope that you will be with you. I hope that you will be with you.  
I hope that you will be with you. I hope that you will be with you.

I hope that you will be with you. I hope that you will be with you.  
I hope that you will be with you. I hope that you will be with you.  
I hope that you will be with you. I hope that you will be with you.

With love,  
Dorothy



The foregoing letter was signed by Fred R. Edgar, Regimental Chaplain, and showed Tony to be a friend in need. The following is a copy of a letter from his commanding officer:

HEADQUARTERS CO. 3RD BN.  
133RD INFANTRY  
U. S. ARMY

13 October 1944

Mrs. Pauline Ciluffo  
1211 Kings Highway,  
Kalamazoo, Michigan  
(Thru Channels)

Pfc Antonio P. Ciluffo  
ASN 36453933  
Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.  
133rd Infantry Regiment  
U. S. Army

Dear Mrs. Ciluffo:

In behalf of the men and officers of this Regiment, I want to express to you our deepest sympathy in the loss of your fine son who has given his life for his country and has thus made the greatest sacrifice that Mortal man can make.

Tony was with several of his comrades on a mission of sweeping an area for mines and doing some demolition work. They had finished the job and had started back to the Unit when their Jeep hit a mine that blew up and set off some T. N. T. that was in the vehicle. All of the men were killed instantly. They did not suffer.

Tony was buried in an American Military Cemetery by one of our Chaplains. There he sleeps the Sleep of Peace by the side of the other great Americans who like him have laid down their lives that freedom loving people all over the world might have preserved for them the God given right to be free. The location of the Cemetery must of necessity remain a Military secret, but it is my opinion that the War Department will make this information available just as soon as possible.

Antonio's personal effects have been sent to you thru Military Channels. This may require a little time but you will receive them. If I can assist you in any way please let me know.

The following letter was dated 12/10/41, signed  
 Benjamin Franklin, and signed John is a 1/10/41  
 to read. The following is a copy of a letter from  
 of a Commission Officer:

MEMORANDUM TO THE CHIEF OF BUREAU  
 12/10/41  
 12/10/41

Mr. [Name] [Address]  
 Mr. [Name] [Address]  
 Mr. [Name] [Address]  
 Mr. [Name] [Address]  
 Mr. [Name] [Address]

Dear Sir, please find

In reply to the letter of 12/10/41, I am  
 sorry to hear that you are having trouble  
 in the [Name] of your [Name] who has given me  
 for the [Name] and has been made the [Name] [Name]

There was a letter of 12/10/41, I am  
 sorry to hear that you are having trouble  
 in the [Name] of your [Name] who has given me  
 for the [Name] and has been made the [Name] [Name]

There was a letter of 12/10/41, I am  
 sorry to hear that you are having trouble  
 in the [Name] of your [Name] who has given me  
 for the [Name] and has been made the [Name] [Name]

There was a letter of 12/10/41, I am  
 sorry to hear that you are having trouble  
 in the [Name] of your [Name] who has given me  
 for the [Name] and has been made the [Name] [Name]

The letter on the preceding page was signed by Robert L. Leonard, Captain, Infantry, Commanding Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.

Antonio Pete Ciluffo died September 8, 1944. His name will long be remembered by the citizens of Kalamazoo as one of the bravest of their boys, doing his duty willingly for his country.

Tony, the citizens of your home city salute you!







Bloom Bros.

*Civic Auditorium*



## THE KALAMAZOO CIVIC AUDITORIUM.

In 1930, due to the developing interest of the citizens of Kalamazoo in drama, it was announced that an unknown donor who was later revealed as Dr. William E. Upjohn was planning to give to these citizens a building to be known as The Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium and to be "dedicated to the happy use of leisure". This building was to house the Civic Players, the Symphony Orchestra and was to be available to all civic groups. Dr. Upjohn also had in view the completion of Bronson Park Square.

Aymar Embury II was chosen as the architect and worked with Dr. Upjohn and the Board of Trustees which had been formed and whose members were Mrs. Dorothy DeLano, Mrs. Donald Gilmore, Mrs. W. H. Upjohn, Mr. Lew Crockett, Mr. Walter Otis, and Mr. Norman Carver who was to be engineer to the architect during the construction of the building.

This building facing Bronson Park, has adequately fulfilled the purpose for which it was given.

That is, "that through this civic social center they may find opportunity for a fuller indulgence in things artistic and cultural, thus enriching the life





of the community as a whole". Lectures by eminent persons, musical concerts and recitals and dance recitals are among the various activities which have been presented in the Auditorium.

The basement of this spacious building has a smoking room and the Green room which provides facilities for luncheons, dinners, cast parties and small dances. Here, too, is a fully equipped kitchen a pantry, and nine dressing rooms providing accomodations for 40 people. The main floor includes the main foyer, the large auditorium with its stage modernly equipped and the Lounge which may be used for teas, receptions and many other social functions. On the first floor, also are offices rented to the Civic Players and the Symphony Orchestra. On the second floor is a small foyer, the balcony of the auditorium and a rehearsal room which has a small stage. This room seats 150 people and can be used for one act plays, lectures, musicales, club meetings and dances.

In 1931 the Civic Players moved from the high school auditorium to their new quarters which they rented in the now completed Civic Auditorium.

The plays given by the Civic Players have all been of the very highest quality. They have presented among others, Ibsen, Shaw, O'Neill and it is now the





custom to produce one of the immortal Shakespeares' dramas each season. Some of the more outstanding plays which have been presented are O'Neill's "Beyond the Horizon", Ibsen's "Doll's House", Shaw's "Arms and the Man", and "Little Women" which was presented two successive years.

The Kohls remained as directors until the spring of 1935 when they resigned. The director who has come to take their place is Paul Stephenson formerly of the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre who carries on the work well started by the Kohls and Mr. Chenery.

In the main foyer of the Auditorium, a tablet has been placed bearing the following inscription: "The citizens of Kalamazoo have caused this tablet to be placed here as an enduring expression of their affection and gratitude for Dr. William E. Upjohn whose wise vision perceived the value of this building to the community and through whose generosity it was erected. Not the least of his gifts in a lifetime devoted to the service of his city."





## THE KALAMAZOO CIVIC PLAYERS.

One of the most successful of the Little Theatre groups in the country is the organization in Kalamazoo known as The Kalamazoo Civic Players.

Formed in the summer of 1929 as a private venture by three players with professional stage experience -- Arthur Kohl, Frances Hall (Mrs. Kohl), and Howard Chenery -- this experiment first known as the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre gained instant favor with drama loving citizens.

The plan of the trio was to present six plays - one each week - in the Lincoln Auditorium. They planned to direct and act in the productions and to secure the additional players from the field of local talent. The first plays were so very successful, however, that it was decided to give ten plays instead of the original plan of six.

Before the tenth play had been presented a large number joined with the original three and by May of the following year there were 627 members.

So great was the interest evinced in the project that in September of 1929, it was made a civic enterprise. A board of directors was elected with





Allan Hoben as the President. The name of the group was now changed to The Kalamazoo Civic Players. The officers of this first board of directors were: Dr. Hoben, president; Lorence Burdick, vice-president; Dorothy DeLano, vice-president in charge of committees; Stanley Morris, secretary; and James M. Shackleton, treasurer. Other members of the board were Otis Earl, Alice Louise McDuffee, Mrs. Roswell Bogue, Mrs. Charles L. Dibble, Mrs. Ernest B. Harper, Dr. Dwight B. Waldo, Norman Carver, Leon Miller, Mrs. Lorence Burdick and Walter Taylor. Arthur Kohl and Frances Hall were retained at a salary as co-directors of this new civic project.

The Kalamazoo Civic Players were a democratic organization whose purpose was "to find and use local talent...giving opportunity for expression and training to those who are chosen members of the cast."

The group which was becoming much larger through the acquisition of new members continued to present its plays at Lincoln Auditorium. The conditions under which they worked were poor -- inadequate staging equipment being their greatest drawback. Then too, the productions were becoming so popular that the seating facilities of the Lincoln Auditorium were inadequate.

Finally, in January, 1930, the Civic Players





began presenting their excellent plays in the auditorium of Central High School. It was also during the year of 1930 that Frances Hall, the assistant director, formed the various junior groups for drama-inclined children.

The members were still dissatisfied with their quarters. What they needed was not only a place to present plays but also a place where their general business meetings could be held, their various committees could meet and where they could meet socially. This demand was finally met by Dr. William E. Upjohn who generously offered the use of a house located at the present site of the Civic Auditorium. This new home proved quite successful. Besides various meetings held there, one act plays were presented for the members on the tiny stage which had been built.

In 1931, the Civic Players began presenting their plays and holding their meetings in the newly completed Civic Auditorium.

The plays given by the Civic Players have all been of the very highest quality. They have presented among others, Ibsen, Shaw, O'Neill, and it is now the custom to produce one of the immortal Shakespeare's dramas each season. Some of the more outstanding plays that have been presented are O'Neill's "Beyond





the Horizon," Ibsen's "Doll's House", Shaw's "Arms and the Man", and "Little Women" which was presented two successive years.

The Kohls remained as directors until the spring of 1935 when they resigned. The director who has come to take their place is Paul Stephenson formerly of the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre who carries on the work well started by the Kohls and Mr. Chenery. The foregoing was written in 1935.









H A R O L D   L E O N A R D   C L A F L I N

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Harold Leonard Claflin was born in Greenville, Michigan, December 20th, 1900, son of the late Wm. H. Claflin of South Haven, Michigan. The survivors are his wife, Mildred and son Hall Kenneth; a sister, Mrs. Hugh S. Barden and a brother Kenneth Watson Claflin both of South Haven, Michigan.

Mr. Claflin graduated from the South Haven High School in 1918 and from the Western Michigan College of Education in 1922. March 17, 1923, he was married to Mildred Mary Hall, who was born in Kalamazoo, December 18, 1900, and was graduated from Central High School and Parsons Business College. She was employed in the office of R. E. Fair Ford Sales and Service, and he was in the Accounts Payable, commercial office of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company for three years.

April 18, 1927 Mr. & Mrs. Claflin became the proud parents of a son Hall Kenneth. They made their home in Paw Paw, Michigan, where Mr. Claflin was connected with the John W. Free State Bank for two and one-half years. In 1927, they moved to Houston, Texas, where he was employed by the Proudfit Loose Leaf Binder Company until 1929 when they returned to Kalamazoo. Mr. Claflin then became the local manager of the Mid-West Commercial Credit Company





an automobile finance concern until 1929. In June the same year he went with Paul H. Todd and later became President of the Claflin & Company with offices in the Todd Building.

As a side issue, in November of 1939 Mr. Claflin organized the Linley Chemical Company, Manufacturing Chemists, located at 144 South Kendall Street, Battle Creek, Michigan, with Mr. Donald B. Hurley of Battle Creek as partner. Due to the fact that Mr. Hurley had been inducted into the U. S. Army through the Selective Service Act they were forced to cease this manufacturing business.

Mr. Claflin was a member of the Royal Arch Masons in Paw Paw, the Kalamazoo Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and was chairman of Boy Scout Troop No. 30. He attended St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church where Mrs. Claflin is a member.

Mr. Claflin was very alert to all world movements and read extensively. He made and held many friendships and was loyal to them all. He further enjoyed working around his home, fishing and week-end motor trips with his family.

On November 17th while Mr. Claflin was in Lansing on a business trip he suffered a sudden heart attack and was removed to the Edward E. Sparrow hospital of that city. After a twelve day illness he passed away.

Funeral services were conducted by the



Reverend C. M. Dinsmore of South Haven, Michigan, from the  
Truesdale parlors in Kalamazoo. Burial was in Riverside  
Cemetery, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

His wife, Mrs. Mildred Claflin and son  
Hall Kenneth survive and reside in their home at  
1304 Stamford Avenue, Kalamazoo.

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126

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, CHICAGO, ILL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, CHICAGO, ILL.

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Ashley Clapp



## ASHLEY CLAPP.

Ashley Clapp was one of the most widely known and most highly respected citizens of Kalamazoo, in fact his name was a household word in the homes of the country districts where his life work called him on account of his long connection with the schools of the county. Though Mr. Clapp was the county clerk of Kalamazoo County at the time of his sudden death he will be most widely remembered as one of the best county school commissioners that ever served in the state of Michigan. For twenty years Mr. Clapp held this office to the undying credit of himself and the great good of Kalamazoo County. Taking the district schools in their formative state he guided them through that dangerous period and when four years ago he resigned the office the fruits of his untiring labors were made apparent in the fact that Kalamazoo county had schools the equal of any county in Michigan and superior to most of them.

His success in this line of work was due to the fact that he always won the esteem and co-operation of those under him by his kindly and helpful nature. He was long on system and a firm believer in establishing the fundamental principles of learning in the minds of all school children instead of devoting time to teaching them that which is mere froth and show.





Mr. Clapp's work in this line took him out among the farmers and he would often tell stories of his experiences, humorous and otherwise, while going the rounds in the days when the county was not what it is now. He has laughingly boasted that he has slept and eaten in nearly every house in the rural districts of the county and that he knew every farmer and family, old and young as well. So he will be remembered by his work as an educator as long as the public school is the pillar of strength in the American nation.

As county clerk of Kalamazoo County he served <sup>six</sup> ~~four~~ years and made an enviable record in that capacity, bringing in to the labors connected with it the same qualifications that made him so successful as county school commissioner. His term of office would have expired in January, his successor having been named in the person of Edwin Vosburg.

Mr. Clapp was born in Syracuse, New York, September 1, 1844, and was thus a little over 60 years of age at the time of his death. In 1864 he enlisted in the 184th New York infantry, Company H., and fought through the Virginia campaign before Richmond. He was honorably discharged in 1865, and moved to Kalamazoo county, where for a year he followed the trade of carpenter and then clerked in a country store for another twelve months. In 1867 he began his work



Mr. Clapp's wife in 1841 took him out along  
the river and he would often sail river of his  
amusement, pleasure and otherwise, while going the  
rounds in the days when the country was not what it is  
now. He has thoroughly learned that he was right and  
right in nearly every sense in the local districts of  
the country and that he knew every corner and valley,  
and was young as well. He will be remembered by  
his name as the educator who long in the public school  
in the district of Columbia in the American nation.  
He was the first of the American nation to be  
born there and made an enviable record in that  
capacity, working in the laborer's movement with it  
the same organization that made him so successful as  
a country school teacher. His name is still known  
and is still in demand, his success having been  
made in the world of their country.

Mr. Clapp was born in Syracuse, New York, Sept-  
ember 1, 1841, and was then a little over 50 years of  
age at the time of his death. In 1862 he married  
in the State New York territory, George E., and together  
they had Virginia daughter before Richmond. He was  
nominally a Presbyterian in 1863, and moved to Richmond  
county, where for a year he followed the trade of  
carpenter and then started in a country store for  
several years. In 1867 he began his work

in the county schools, accepting a position as teacher in Oshtemo district, where he taught for six years at the same time doing some special work at Kalamazoo college. He then went to Vicksburg, Michigan, where he lived six years and acted as Superintendent of the public schools of that place. In 1881 he was made county secretary of schools and served twenty years in that office as previously stated. During the last ten years of the term of office the position was termed county school commissioner. He served as county clerk three times from 1900 to 1904, elected on the Republican ticket by large majorities each time.

In 1869 he married Miss Frances M. Drummond of Oshtemo, Michigan and she together with three children survive him. The children are Mrs. Charles Eassom, Miss Leah Clapp and Wesley Clapp.

Like a thunder peal out of a clear sky came the announcement shortly after 11:00 o'clock Monday morning, November 14, 1904 that Ashley Clapp, county clerk of Kalamazoo county, had suddenly passed away in his office with not the first semblance of a warning that the end was so near. At the time of his death Mr. Clapp was seated in an easy chair in the public portion of his office engaged in conversation with Martin Bacon and Delavan Arnold. He was







in good spirits as was his custom, in fact he had expressed himself as feeling unusually well. Suddenly without warning he gave a quick breath, settled back in his chair and passed away peacefully. Mrs. Charles Eassom, a daughter, was at work at her desk in the private office and the blow was a terrible one for her, coming as it did without any warning.

Mr. Clapp was very popular with the other county officials and the news of his sudden demise swept like wildfire through the court house and out onto the business streets of the city.

Funeral services were conducted by The Reverend W. M. Puffer, in the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Kalamazoo, on Thursday afternoon, November 17, 1904.

Socially Mr. Clapp was connected with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the G. A. R. and the Union Veterans Union. Of the latter organization he was a member of the department staff.

(The above was written in 1936)







138

Alfred M. Clark

A L F R E D   M A S O N   C L A R K

1 8 6 0   -   1 9 3 7

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Alfred Mason Clark was born in Wyandotte, Michigan, February 1, 1860, son of Lucy Lee Mason and Silas Clark of Scotch descent. He attended the Wyandotte schools and also St. Catherine's, Ontario, for several years.

Lucy Lee Mason was born in Lysander, New York, May 25, 1839 and Silas Clark was born in Vernon Center, New York, May 15, 1828.

Alfred M. Clark, in the year 1878, went to Devil's Lake, North Dakota, and apprenticed himself to a printer and edited the first newspaper in that town. He returned East in 1862 and located in Marshall, Michigan, where, on December 11, 1883, he married Ethel May Drake, who died March 23, 1889.

They were the parents of:

Ethel Drake, who married Magnus Jefson and resides in Alta Loma, California;

Aileen, who married Carol Boylan and resides in Kalamazoo.

After his marriage, Mr. Clark was employed by the Battle Creek Moon, a newspaper of that city.

In 1885, Mr. Clark moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan,





and was employed by the Kalamazoo Publishing Company until 1888, when he went with the Ihling Brothers and Everard Company and was foreman of the bindery department for the next sixteen years.

By reason of his thorough knowledge of the paper business Mr. Clark was known as the "Office Doctor," and many concerns depended upon his judgment for their filing devices and other office equipment.

About 1905, he went into business for himself and at the time of his death he was the oldest man in Kalamazoo conducting his own business. He had conducted the office supply business at the corner of Portage and Michigan Avenue for one year before he moved to the South street location.

Mr. Clark was married a second time September 23, 1891, at Mendon, Michigan, to Nellie Hale, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hale, of Union City, Michigan. Nellie Hale Clark was born in Dowagiac, Michigan, June 10, 1861, and was graduated from the Union City high school in 1878. Her parents were Congregationalists, but she joined the East Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church with her husband and for about twenty-five years they served faithfully in that fellowship. Mrs. Clark has always

141





been exceedingly fond of children. She is the mother of:

Wilma Beryl, who married Lloyd R. Cromer, who resides in Kalamazoo and are the parents of Betty Beryl and David Dudley.

Mr. and Mrs. Carol Boylan are the parents of: Wendell Eugene; Beverly Aileen, who married Dale Smith; Carol Clark and Jacqueline Jean, all of Kalamazoo.

Mr. Clark was of an inventive turn of mind and invented a type carrier. He was greatly interested in political matters and was an ardent Republican. He was also interested in religious work and for about twelve years he conducted the choir of the East Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church and served on the music committee. He also taught a class in the Sunday school for some time and served on the official board of the church. When the church building was dedicated February 1, 1891, the members of the church and the neighbors were much surprised when they heard for the first time the ringing of the church bell which Mr. Clark had hung.

Mr. Clark was an enthusiastic stamp collector and whenever a new issue came to the post office he would buy a quantity and put them away for the future. He also had a hobby of collecting rare coins and had accumulated a large number.

193





Death came to Mr. Clark November 30, 1937,  
at his home, 926 Austin street. The funeral was  
conducted by the Reverend R. J. Locke, D. D., and  
burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written March 14, 1938.









C H A R L E S   E L W I N   C L A R K

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A N N A   L I N D E R S   C L A R K

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Charles Elwin Clark was born in Ross township, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, on a farm, and attended the Tyler district school, then the school at Ross Center and the Augusta school and finally the Yorkville school under Professor W. T. Smith.

He worked with John Adams for a time and learned the carpenter trade, which he has followed through life thus far.

February 28, 1889, he was married to Anna Lenders, who was born April 3, 1866, and passed away March 11, 1940, the Reverend Robert E. Meader conducting the funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark began housekeeping in the house in Yorkville in which they have resided ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were always active in community interests, especially in the church and school. She was a member of the Ladies Aid Society and was a leader in every effort to promote the work of the church. He has been a trustee of the





church for many years and has contributed of time and money to keep the property in good condition.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark became the parents of:

Ella, who married Albert Marcoux and became the mother of Robert, who is in the United States navy, Richard, Virginia, Marylin and James and resides on M 89 the first house west of the church on the north side of the road;

Elwin R., who married Blanche Kennedy, is the father of Donna May and resides in Herrin, Illinois;

Erwin R., who married Georgia Tomlin, adopted a daughter Madylin and resides in Hastings, Michigan.

Mr. Charles Elwin Clark is active in the Democratic party and has served as highway commissioner a number of years. He has also served on the Yorkville school board.

In February, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Clark celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They made many friends, were well read and intelligent and made a fine contribution to the life of the Yorkville community.









J O S E P H   B E R N A R D   C L A R K

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Joseph Bernard Clark was born in Lakewood, Ohio, December 14, 1910, son of John Peter and Mary Guenther Clark of Irish descent, who were also the parents of:

John B., born July 30, 1903, married Emily Hubel and they became the parents of Lois, Jack, Virginia, Joseph and Carol and reside in Cleveland, Ohio;

Louise, born January 1, 1905, married Walter Gschwend and became the mother of Louise and resides in California;

Caroline, born December 4, 1906, married Max Rinehart, who became the father of James, Maxine, Thomas, Mary Lou, Max Jr., and Gerald and lives in California;

Bernadine, who became Mary Celestia, a Sister of the Ursuline Order, Villa Angela, Cleveland, Ohio;

Ann, who married Joseph Redell and they became the parents of Joan, James and Charles and resided in Atwater, California, until her death January 16, 1943;

Mary, born July 30, 1914, married Carl Eisenbarth and became the mother of Mary Lee and Jane Ann and lives in Cleveland, Ohio;

Edward, unmarried, died in May, 1940;

Robert, born [redacted], is now, 1943, in the United States Air Corps; and

Betty, born [redacted], married Harry



# 1910 - 1914

1910 - 1914

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Robert, born May 27, 1900, in the United States; his father and mother

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Marks and they became the parents of Patti Ann, born .

The family home was at Lakewood, Ohio, and Joseph attended the Cathedral Latin School for Boys in Cleveland, Ohio, and was graduated in 1930. That summer he played the piano with an orchestra, which he organized, and with which he played at Tamagamie Inn at Tamagamie Lake in Canada. After that he attended St. Joseph's College in Trinity, Alabama. He was a good student and a fine athlete. He was chosen with some other young men to teach in St. Augustine Military Academy in Puerto Rico, where for four years he taught history and English in the high school and was active in athletic coaching.

Returning to Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Clark worked for a time for the Republic Steel Company and then went to Hanford, California, where he was employed by the Hanford Cotton Company. His next move was to Fresno, California, where he was made Executive Secretary of the Catholic Youth Organization and had much to do with juvenile delinquency problems and other social service work. Beginning when he was in the Cathedral Latin School for Boys in Cleveland, Ohio, he associated himself with Boy Scout work everywhere he lived, both in organizing new troops and serving as an assistant Scout Master or as a

The family home was at Lakewood, Ohio, and  
 Joseph attended the Independent Latin School for boys  
 in Cleveland, Ohio, and was graduated in 1930. That  
 summer he played the piano with an orchestra, which he  
 organized, and with which he played at Lakewood for  
 the Independence League in Cleveland. After that he attended  
 St. Joseph's College in Chicago, Illinois. He was a  
 good student and a fine athlete. He was chosen All  
 American and was named to the team in St. Joseph's.  
 After leaving young men to teach in St. Joseph's  
 Ministry, he went to Chicago, where for four years  
 he taught history and English in the high school and  
 was active in athletic activities.  
 Returning to Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Ellis worked  
 for a time for the Republic Steel Company and then  
 went to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed by  
 the Detroit Edison Company. He next went to  
 Toledo, Michigan, where he was with the  
 management of the Toledo Road Transportation and  
 was for two years with the Toledo Telephone Company and  
 after being with the Toledo Telephone Company for two years  
 he returned to his home in Lakewood, Ohio, where he  
 was employed as an assistant from 1935 to 1937.



Scout Master.

In 1937 he came to Battle Creek, Michigan, bringing a base ball team to play in the National Tournament in the American Base Ball Congress. The team acquitted itself with distinction, playing on both Postum Field and the Bailey Park, the large field of five diamonds. When Mr. Clark saw this part of the country he became interested in it and returned in 1939 and found employment with the Sears Roebuck Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

One of Joe's sisters residing in Cleveland had taken special interest in her brother when he was in that city and in the years that followed. To her he wrote that he was in a strange city where he knew practically no one. She replied that a friend of hers in the Convent was corresponding with former friends in Kalamazoo and suggested that Joe get in touch with this family, the Bodmers at 543 East Dutton street. After a Scout meeting Joseph ventured to call. The visit proved to be one of particular significance. Fourteen months later, April 28, 1941, Joseph Bernard Clark and the fine daughter of the Bodmers, Myrtle Elizabeth, were married at St. Joseph's Franciscan Church, O. F. M., in Cleveland, Ohio, by Father Benjamin.

Myrtle Elizabeth Bodmer was born in Appleton,



Wisconsin, February 22, 1910, the daughter of Joseph Arnold and Margaret Barbara Kronser Bodmer, who were also the parents of:

Harvey Conrad, born May 8, 1904, a practicing physician in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and

Catharine, born September 27, 1912.

The Bodmer family moved from Appleton, Wisconsin, to Alexandria, Indiana, and then to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Myrtle attended St. Joseph's Grade School and St. Augustine's High School, from which she was graduated in 1928. She then took training in the St. Camillus School of Nursing and was made a Registered Nurse in 1931. Miss Myrtle also had two years of college work in Nazareth College and one year in Western Michigan College of Education.

After finishing her schooling Myrtle Bodmer did private duty nursing for a time. For six years prior to 1943 she has been the nurse in the office of her brother, Dr. H. C. Bodmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bernard Clark started housekeeping in an apartment at 1516 West Main street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and he continued to work with the Sears Roebuck Company.

February 25, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy, being rated as a 3rd Class Yeoman. He received his call to duty June 16, 1942, and was





sent to the Great Lakes Station for "boot" training, after which he was sent to the Solomons Amphibious Training Base in Maryland, where he was promoted to Yeoman First Class. He was at this base from September 1, 1942 until April 20, 1943, when he passed away after a week's illness with scarlet fever.

Full military funeral services were held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, by Father J. T. Bartkowiak and burial was in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

Joseph Clark was a splendid type of manhood and all through his adult life showed pronounced ability as a leader, both in boys work and with the youth of his own age. The Kalamazoo Scout Executive, Mr. A. S. Barrows, needed some one to organize and lead the groups of Roman Catholic boys in Scout work and made the wise selection of Mr. Clark for that important project, for which he was eminently fitted by some years of experience.

Mr. Clark was a handsome young man, five feet, six inches tall, ruggedly built, with dark curly hair and brown eyes. He was the typical Irish type, which made him an attractive person with a happy, winsome smile. His upright, stalwart manner of life and his kindly, thoughtful efforts helped many a boy to choose and follow the right path.

and for the great Cuban Revolution for "good" training.  
 when after he was sent to the National University  
 studying law in Santiago, where he was promoted to  
 Second First Class. He was at this time from  
 September 1, 1945 until April 15, 1947, when he  
 passed away after a short illness with cancer of the  
 lungs.  
 His military funeral services were held at  
 St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Santiago.  
 Buried, by Father J. T. O'Donnell and parish was  
 in St. Peter cemetery.  
 Father O'Donnell was a splendid type of manhood and  
 all through his whole life showed pronounced ability  
 as a leader, both in high work and with the youth of  
 his own age. For religious work he was, Sr.  
 J. J. O'Donnell, worked hard as a organizer and led  
 the group of young Catholics here in St. Joseph and  
 made the day's religion at St. Peter for 1947  
 important project, for which he was religiously  
 tried by some kind of experience.  
 Sr. O'Donnell was a handsome young man, five feet  
 six inches tall, very dark hair, with dark eyes  
 and a broad nose. He was the typical Irish type,  
 which made him an attractive person with a happy,  
 winsome smile. His bright, steady manner of life  
 and his family, throughout all his life was a joy  
 to himself and to his family and friends.



The commanding officers and his buddies in the Armed Service spoke highly of Joe for his work at the naval base and commended him for his manliness and the personal qualities which made him a good pal.

Joe was a fine musician. He played the piano with orchestras as often as his work permitted. He was a composer of some merit and had to his credit a number of popular compositions as well as music for High Mass. A priest in California in the city of Fresno presented Mr. Clark with a beautiful prayer book in appreciation of his work in directing the church choir while living and working in that city. This prayer book and the music which he composed for the Mass are cherished possessions with Mrs. Clark. He was broadminded and tolerant in his attitude toward other religious organizations and frequently played in Protestant churches.

He liked sports as indicated by his base ball activities. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was generous and kind and carried a tender, loving heart, warming the hearthstone of his home with his devotion to the one he had chosen to be his life companion. He wrote to her daily and sometimes several times a day, filling his letters with endearing terms and every line carried expressions of deep and enduring affection. Theirs was an unusual-



ly happy marriage. They enjoyed each other to the full when they were together and when separated by military necessity, they became even more and more fond of each other. They both thanked God for the love and happiness which was theirs.

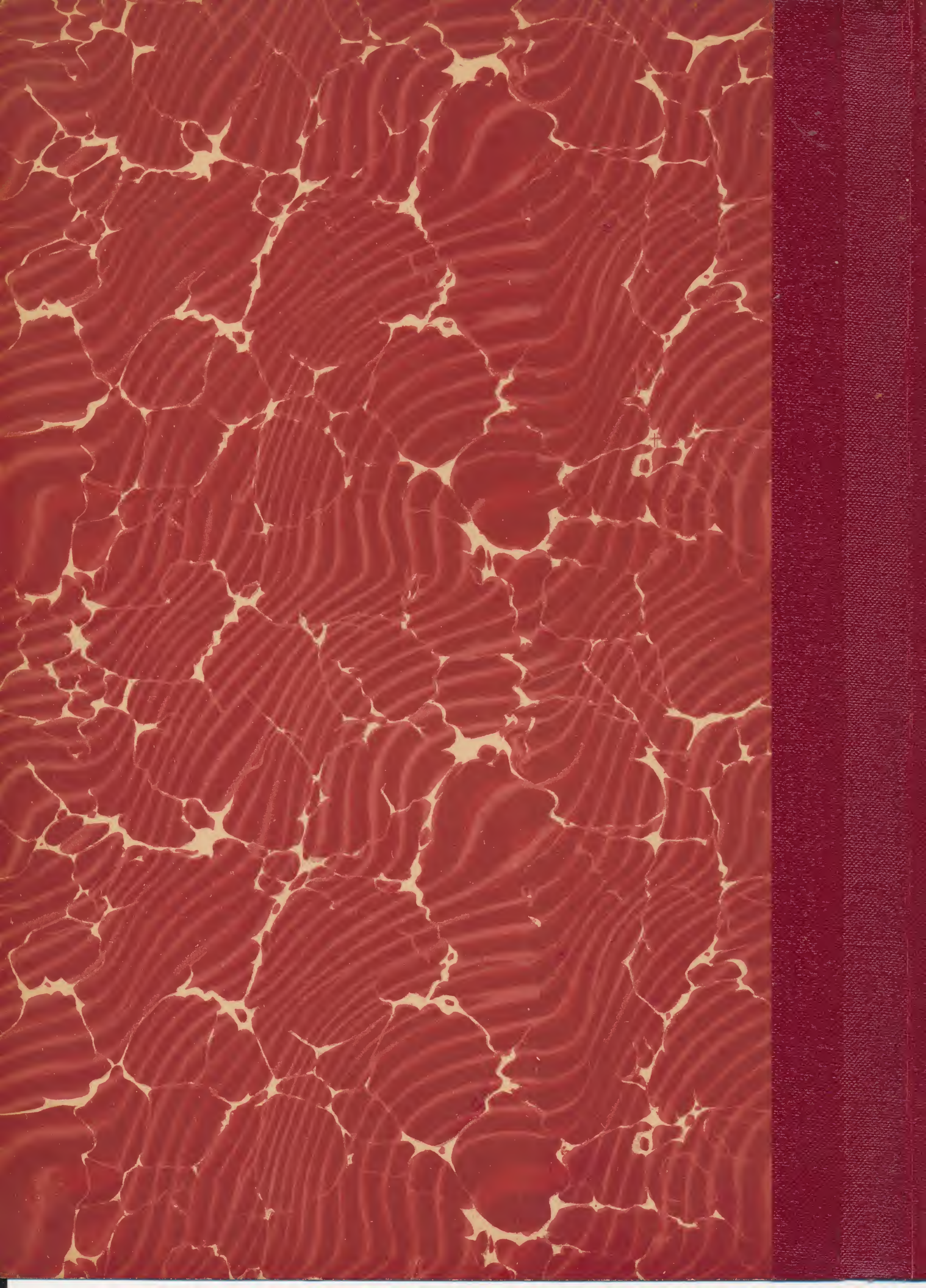
Joseph Bernard Clark, playing his part in the Second World War, died as he had lived - one of God's best men. He still lives as an abiding presence in the hearts of those who loved him.



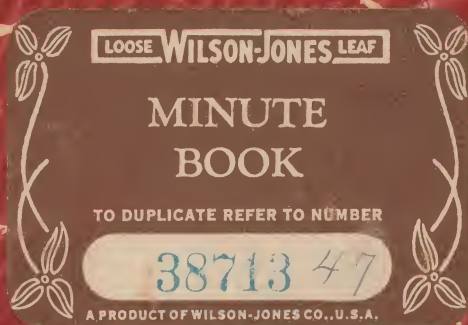














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